2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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and how tediously verbose they seemed when I had; but invariably the Attorney-General came to my rescue and I had but to agree with him and I was home, as it were. Our meetings were not at all like the free-and-easy chatty Port Trust affairs which, strangely enough, did twice the work in half the time. We were not unlike a rather serious-minded sixth form being taken by the Head in person. Individually we were a curious assortment of talent and mediocrity, inevitable in all great Services, guided very largely by remote control from London. The level in Aden was very high, and this combined with the smallness of the Aden Service made the oddities look odder than they really were. Among the various subjects which come before the Executive Council I think the most difficult, and certainly the most mentally disturbing, are the petitions for mercy from persons who had been sentenced to death. They are, I am glad to say, few and far between. In such cases the final decision will mean life or death to one person, and make no mistake about it, although the Governor has the advice of Council and he has their aid in the decision which he has to make, the decision is not theirs—it is his. The greatest care is exercised to ensure that a right decision is given and the record of the case and the judgments of the trying Judge and the Court of Appeal are available to the Members and to His Excellency, and they all have the benefit of hearing the clear, concise and unbiased statement of the Attorney-General. There is normally no general discussion after the Attorney-General has finished speaking, but if individual Members have points which they wish to have information upon, they are raised, and when there is no more to be said then the opinions of the Members of Council are taken. This is done according to custom in an unusual way and is in rotation, beginning with the most junior Member and so in order of seniority to the Chief Secretary who is the senior of the *ex-officio* Members of the Council. The question is simple and requires a Yes or a No; it is whether or not the prerogative of mercy should be exercised.

I did not take my seat in the Legislative Council as a nominated Unofficial Member for some time, in fact, not until there

The only relief organisation is the Aden Central Poor Relief Fund which administers a Government grant of Rs. 50,000 and a small income from investments. 657 746

It must be noted that the population of Aden is largely immigrant; the workpeople come to the port to work for eighteen months or two years, and then return to their homes. This circumstance adds to the difficulty of organising and financing social services. The gravest social problem in Aden is the lack of housing. For most of the population the family has only one room or a shack, whilst many male workers live in the streets. 167 362

In August the newly-formed Social Welfare Advisory Council began its activities. 746

In June a census of the blind was attempted. In all 263 blind persons were interviewed by a medical specialist and the Welfare Officer, and were registered. Few applicants were rejected as not being blind. Some criticism has been voiced that this register is still incomplete: some immigrant blind children were noted as having failed to report. A committee, which has been appointed to report and recommend to Government on blind welfare, held its first meeting on 4th January, 1951. 732 657

Considerable success was attained during the year in the use of probation for juvenile offenders, and it is now rare for any other method of correction to be tried in the case of Aden boys who are brought before the Courts for the first time. For homeless Yemeni boys who get into trouble probation is not suitable and a satisfactory method of treatment has yet to be found. At the end of 1950 it was decided to experiment with probation for adults, and two cases were accepted in December. The Assistant Welfare Officer is the Probation Officer. 738 696

Just before his retirement Sir Reginald Champion donated Rs. 5,308 to form the nucleus of a fund for the creation of the first Community Centre in Aden. The Labour and Welfare Department gratefully accepted this gift and plans are being made with the advice of the Welfare Advisory Council. Every opportunity has been taken by means of lectures, films, pamphlets, etc., to arouse an interest in welfare work, particularly with an aim to encourage the formation of voluntary service groups. 741

Juvenile Probation 1950 738

Number on probation 1/1/1950	3
Total new cases during the year	25
Average number of probationers per month	12
Number on probation at 31/12/1950 ..	10
Probation completed satisfactorily during 1950..	15 cases
Probation order revoked	3 „
Percentage of successes	83⅓ per cent

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